

THURSDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

THURSDAY, 1:30 P.M., APRIL 8, 2021

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!



Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by **C** and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

“It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper and are distributed and received there” (Augsburg Confession, Article X). “A person who has faith in these words, ‘given for you’ and ‘shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ is really worthy and well prepared.” “Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament” (The Small Catechism, Part VI). “This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion” (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50).

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A welcome and introduction to the day are made.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

302 N. Parker Dr., Janesville, WI 53545

Office Tel. (608) 752-3159 www.sjlc-elca.org

saintjohnlutheran@sbcglobal.net

Pastor: Rev. Bond Haldeman

Mobile Tel. (608) 208-0283

pastor.bond@sbcglobal.net

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives
thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

☩ Amen.

ENTRANCE PSALM (139)

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
**☩ you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
☩ but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before
☩ and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

☪ it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit?

☪ Where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

☪ if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

☪ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☪ And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☪ Alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☪ Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God,

**☪ for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☪ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

FIRST READING: Daniel 12:1-3

¹At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 16:8-11

⁸I have set the Lord always before me;

☩ because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;

☩ my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave,

☩ nor let your holy one see the pit.

¹¹You will show me the path of life;

**☩ in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Acts 2:14, 22b-32

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ^{22b}Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through

him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

☪ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. God raised up Jesus, having freed him from death,
because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:9-15a

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

☪ Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹Suddenly Jesus met Mary Magdalene and the other Mary and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

¹¹While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²After the priests

had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³telling them, “You must say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”
^{15a}So they took the money and did as they were directed.

The gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☩ We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

☩ Your mercy is great.

*The prayers conclude: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our
prayers to you . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

☩ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

*Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is
presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the
world.*

OFFERTORY: 1 Cor. 5:7-8

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

⁷Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch.

☩ For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

⁸Therefore, let us celebrate the festival,
not with the yeast of malice and evil,
☩ but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Alleluia, alleluia.

☩ Alleluia, alleluia.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. . . .

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life . . .

Grace our table with your presence.

☩ Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. . . .

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

☩ Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places . . .

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

☩ Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to receive from this table.

Eat and be satisfied.

☩ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (118)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☪ Amen.

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

☪ ²Let Israel now proclaim, "His mercy endures forever."

⁵I called to the Lord in my distress;
the Lord answered by setting me free.

☪ ⁸It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh.

¹⁰All the ungodly encompass me;
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.

**☪ ¹¹They hem me in, they hem me in on every side;
in the name of the Lord I will repel them.**

¹³I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, but the Lord came to my help.

**☪ ¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.**

¹⁵There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:

**☪ ¹⁶"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"**

¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

**☪ ²¹I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.**

²²The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

☪ ²³This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**☪ ²⁵Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!
Lord, send us now success.**

²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;

**☞ ²⁸“You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”**

²⁹Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

**☞ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Some texts and images from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006350.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

On the Other Side of Fear

The very last verse of Sunday morning's gospel comprises what scholars believe to be the original ending of Mark. Somewhat alarmingly, the final words are "they were afraid" (Mark 16:8). If you crack open your Bible today, you'll see a few other paragraphs and endings beyond this verse; however, Mark 16:8 is thought to have been the original end to the book.

As people who are used to greeting Easter morning with flowers, banners, trumpets, and boisterous hymns, this original ending to Mark, filled with fear and silence, isn't quite what we expect to find at the empty tomb! The end of Mark's Easter story can feel disquieting; maybe that's why a faithful person added another ending or two.

Fear and silence are hallmarks of human life. Anyone who says they have never been afraid is either living under a rock or probably not sharing the full truth of their experience of things. As vulnerable human creatures, we are susceptible to fear, which can cascade into silence at our worst when we are most frightened. That is exactly where we meet the disciples today.

Yet someone, sometime, somewhere, had to have said something, or else we would not be here worshipping at Easter. At some point joy crept up and leapt over the disciples' terror and paralysis. At some point the words were blurted out and released into the air with gladness: "Christ is risen, alleluia!"

Today, we enter the story on the other side of fear and silence. Someone among those disciples did indeed proclaim the truth: Christ is risen! We can rest assured knowing that despair and death don't have the last word. Drawn into the resurrection life of Jesus, we are invited to take part in this movement of God, shouting with loud praise, "Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!"